

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A text-entry system based on trigger sequences comprising 1) a plurality of keys, 2) a plurality of printable symbols, 3) said plurality of printable symbols comprising a plurality of symbols in a set consisting of pre-conversion symbols, and a plurality of post-conversion symbols and non-conversion symbols, such that at least one of said keys is assigned more than one of said pre-conversion symbols such that at least one fixed sequence of said keystrokes corresponds to more than one sequence of said pre-conversion symbols and optionally a plurality of non-conversion symbols, each of said post-conversion symbols set in a correspondence to a sequence of said-pre-conversion symbols, said corresponding sequence of said pre-conversion symbols comprising of at least one said pre-conversion symbols, 4) a plurality of symbol-input-end symbols, 5) a display to display printable symbols, 6) a first mechanism to display said printable symbols pre-conversion symbols in response to keystrokes, and 7) a second mechanism to recognize elements of a set of trigger sequences of said keystrokes and thereby trigger conversion of a plurality pre-conversion sequence comprising at least one of said pre-conversion symbols displayed on said display by said first mechanism to a post-conversion sequence comprising at least one plurality of said post-conversion symbols, said set of trigger sequences comprising classes of said trigger sequences, said classes comprising a plurality of said trigger sequences contained in a continuation first class of said trigger sequences, said trigger sequences in elements of said continuation first class of said trigger sequences characterized in that they comprise a subsequence of

said keystrokes, said subsequence comprising at least two of said keystrokes such that a first of said subsequence said keystrokes ~~in said subsequence~~ causes said first mechanism to display one of a first said pre-conversion symbols, and where subsequent subsequence said keystrokes ~~in said subsequence~~ are characterized in that each of said subsequent subsequence said keystrokes generates one of a said symbol-input-end symbols, where each said generated symbol-input-end symbol applies to an immediately previously displayed said printable symbol to cause input of said immediately previously displayed said printable symbol and where each of said subsequent said keystrokes additionally causes display of a further said printable symbol said further said printable symbol ~~being either selected from a set consisting of said a~~ pre-conversion symbols or a and said non-conversion symbols, where a last of said subsequent subsequence said keystrokes generates a last said symbol-input-end symbol applying to a last said immediately previously displayed said printable symbol, and displays a last said further said printable symbol, said last said further printable symbol characterized as displayed and not converted when said last said immediately previously displayed said printable symbol is converted, said last of said subsequent subsequence keystroke completing ~~es~~ said trigger sequence, so that it is and thereby is recognized by said second mechanism, permitting conversion before any further keystroke is made triggers conversion.

2. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further characterized in that 1) said pre-conversion symbols comprise

tone marks and symbols selected from ~~the-a~~ set of Latin symbols and Bopomofo symbols, 2) said post-conversion symbols comprise Hanzi, and 3) ~~a plurality of~~ elements of said ~~continuation~~ first class of said trigger sequences are characterized in that said first subsequence said keystroke ~~of~~ said subsequence causes said first mechanism to display one of said tone marks and one of said subsequent subsequence said keystrokes ~~of~~ said subsequence generates one of said symbol-input-end symbols, said generated said symbol-input-end symbol applying to said displayed said tone mark causing it to be input.

3. (Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further characterized in that 1) said pre-conversion symbols comprise cHiragana, 2) said post-conversion symbols comprise Kanji, 3) said non-conversion symbols comprise Hiragana, and 4) ~~said trigger sequences comprise two classes, said classes comprise a non-continuation second~~ class, elements of said ~~non-continuation~~ second class characterized in that they comprise a first said keystroke which causes said first mechanism to display a ~~non-continuation~~ said first said cHiragana, and a second said keystroke which generates ~~one of said~~ a first said symbol-input-end symbol, said first said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by ~~said~~ second keystroke applying to said displayed ~~non-continuation~~ first said cHiragana causing it to be input, where said second said keystroke is on ~~one of said~~ a cHiragana-free said key, characterized in that ~~to which none it has not been assigned any of~~ said cHiragana ~~have been assigned~~, and elements of said ~~continuation~~ first class are further characterized in that said first subsequence said keystroke ~~of~~ said subsequence causes said first mechanism to display a ~~continuation~~ first said subsequence said cHiragana, and a first subsequent subsequence said keystroke ~~of~~ said subsequence

generates one of said symbol-input-end symbols, said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by said first subsequent subsequence said keystroke ~~of said subsequence~~ applying to said ~~displayed continuation~~ said first subsequence said cHiragana causing it to be input, where said first subsequent subsequence said keystroke ~~of said subsequence~~ also causes one of said ~~non-conversion symbols~~ Hiragana to be displayed by said first mechanism and a second subsequent subsequence said keystroke ~~of said subsequence~~ which generates a second subsequence one of said symbol-input-end symbols, said second subsequence said symbol-input-end symbol which applyingies to said displayed said Hiragana non-conversion symbol causing it to be input.

4. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further characterized in that 1) said pre-conversion symbols comprise cLatin symbols, 2) said post-conversion symbols comprise of Kanji, 3) said non-conversion symbols are selected from a set consisting of ~~comprise~~-Latin symbols and Hiragana and 4) ~~said trigger sequences~~ comprise two classes, said classes comprising a non-continuation second class, elements of said non-continuation second class characterized in that they contain a first said keystroke which causes said first mechanism to display a non-continuation said first said cLatin symbols, and a second said keystroke which generates a first one of said symbol-input-end symbols, said first said symbol-input-end symbol generated by said second keystroke applying to said displayed non-continuation first said cLatin symbol causing it to be input, where said second said keystroke is on one of said a cLatin-free said keys, characterized in that to which it has not been assigned no ne of any of said cLatin symbols have been assigned, and elements of said continuation first class are further characterized in that said first

subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence-causes said first mechanism to display a continuation-first subsequence said cLatin symbol, and a first subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence-generates a first subsequence one of said symbol-input-end symbols, said first subsequence said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by said first subsequent keystroke of said subsequence applying to said displayed continuation said first subsequence said cLatin symbol causing it to be input, where said first subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence also causes one of said non-conversion symbols to be displayed by said first mechanism and a second subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence which generates one of a second said symbol-input-end symbols which applies to said displayed non-conversion symbol causing it to be input.

5. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further characterized in that 1) said pre-conversion symbols comprise Latin symbols, 2) said post-conversion symbols comprise Kanji, 3) said non-conversion symbols comprise Hiragana and 4) said trigger sequences comprise two classes, said classes comprise a non-continuation-second class, elements of said non-continuation-second class characterized as containing a first said keystroke which causes said first mechanism to display a non-continuation-first said Latin symbols, and a second said keystroke which generates one of a first said symbol-input-end symbols, said first said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by said second keystroke applying to said displayed non-continuation-first said Latin symbol causing it to be input, where said second said keystroke is on= a Latin-symbol-free said key, said Latin-symbol-free said key characterized in that it has not been assigned any one of said keys to which none of said Latin symbols have

~~been assigned, and elements of said continuation-first class are further characterized in that said first subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence causes said first mechanism to display a continuation first subsequence said Latin symbol, and a first subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence generates one of a first subsequence said symbol-input-end symbols, said first subsequence said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by said first subsequent keystroke of said subsequence applying to said displayed continuation said first subsequence said Latin symbol causing it to be input, where said first subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence also causes one of a first said non-conversion symbols to be displayed by said first mechanism, and a second subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence which generates a second subsequence one of said symbol-input-end symbol, a second subsequence said symbol-input-end symbol which applies to said displayed first said non-conversion symbol causing it to be input.~~

6. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further characterized in that 1) said pre-conversion symbols comprise cJamo, 2) said post-conversion symbols comprise Hanja, 3) said non-conversion symbols comprise Jamo, and 4) ~~said trigger sequences comprise two classes, said classes comprise a non-continuation second class~~, elements of said non-continuation second class characterized in that they contain a first ~~said~~ keystroke which causes said first mechanism to display a non-continuation first said cJamo, and a second ~~said~~ keystroke which generates one of a first said symbol-input-end symbols, said first said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by said second keystroke applying to said displayed non-continuation first said cJamo causing it to be input, where said second ~~said~~ keystroke is on a

cJamo-free said key, said cJamo-free said key characterized in that it has not been assigned any to which none of said cJamo have been assigned, and said trigger sequences in elements of said continuation first class are further characterized in that said first subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence causes said first mechanism to display a continuation first subsequence said cJamo, and a first subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence generates one of a first subsequence said symbol-input-end symbols said first subsequence said symbol-input-end-symbol generated by said first subsequent keystroke of said subsequence applying to said displayed continuation first subsequence said cJamo causing it to be input, where said first subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence also causes one of a first subsequence said non-conversion symbols to be displayed and a second subsequent subsequence said keystroke of said subsequence which generates a second subsequence one of said symbol-input-end symbols, said second subsequence said symbol-input-end symbol generated by said second subsequent keystroke applying to said displayed first subsequence said non-conversion symbol causing it to be input.

7. (Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising a third mechanism to convert said pre-conversion symbols to said post-conversion symbols upon recognition of said trigger sequences by said second mechanism.

8. (Previously Presented) The text-entry system of claim 7 further characterized in that said third mechanism is physically remote from said first mechanism.

9. (Previously Presented) The text-entry system of claim 7 further characterized in that said third mechanism performs said conversion based on a context comprising other input symbols.

10. (Previously Presented) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising a predictive text mechanism operating to select said pre-conversion symbols for display based on a context comprising other input symbols.

11. (Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising at least one Next key for incrementing symbols in an ordered list containing more than one element, said Next key characterized in that a said keystroke on said Next key does not generate a said symbol-input-end symbol.

12. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising a multi-tap mechanism for incrementing symbols in an ordered list containing more than one element, said multi-tap mechanism characterized in that a said incrementing symbols in an ordered list does not generate any said symbol-input-end symbols.

13. (Withdrawn) The text-entry system of claim 2 further characterized in that each time one of said tone marks is displayed, it is only displayed after a plurality of said Latin symbols have been displayed but not input.

14. (Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising a first Next said key applying to said a plurality of said

pre-conversion symbols assigned to a same said key such that a said keystroke on said first Next said key advances said same-key-assigned said pre-conversion symbols in an order, and a second Next key applying to said a plurality of said non-conversion symbols assigned to a same said key such that a said keystroke on said second Next said key advances said same-key-assigned said non-conversion symbols in an order, said first Next key characterized in that a said keystroke on said first Next key does not generate a said symbol-input-end symbol, and said second Next key characterized in that a said keystroke on said second Next key does not generate a said symbol-input-end symbol.

15. (Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 3 further characterized in that a plurality of ~~symbols comprising~~ said pre-conversion symbols and ~~said non-conversion symbols~~ are assigned to said keys in a substantially Iroha ordering.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for constructing trigger sequences for a text-entry system comprising the steps of 1) selecting a set of printable symbols from a set consisting of comprising pre-conversion symbols, post-conversion symbols, and optionally non-conversion symbols, 2) assigning said pre-conversion symbols to keys such that at least one said key is assigned more than one said pre-conversion symbol 3) selecting a text-entry mechanism which enters text in response to keystrokes, 4) selecting a set of sample text sequences 4) for each member of said set of selected sample text sequences determining a corresponding said keystroke sequence set of keystroke sequences which corresponds to a set of possible texts to be which causes entered using said text-entry system to enter said selected sample text sequence, said corresponding said keystroke

characterized in that it does not contain a said keystroke on a conversion said key, said conversion said key characterized as converting a subset of displayed said pre-conversion symbols to a subset of said post-conversion symbols, without additionally causing display of further printable symbols where said further printable symbols are selected from the set consisting of said pre-conversion symbols and said non-conversion symbols, 54) for each said corresponding said keystroke sequence, and for each said pre-conversion symbol generated by each of said corresponding said keystroke sequences in said set of keystroke sequences, finding a subsequence of said keystrokes such that said subsequence comprises at least two of said keystrokes such that a first of said subsequence keystrokes in said subsequence causes display of a first said each pre-conversion symbol, and subsequent said keystrokes in said subsequence are characterized in that each of said subsequent keystrokes they generates a symbol-input-end symbol, where said generated said symbol-input-end symbol applies to an immediately previously displayed said printable symbol to cause input of said immediately previously displayed said printable symbol and where each of said subsequent said keystrokes additionally causes display of a said further said printable symbol, said further said printable symbol being either a said pre-conversion symbol or a said non-conversion symbol, where a last of said subsequent said keystrokes completes said trigger sequence, and thereby triggers conversion.

and 5) returning to said step of selecting said set of said printable symbols if said step of finding said subsequence fails to produce satisfactory subsequences.

17. (Currently Amended) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising an assignment of cHiragana to said plurality of keys in a substantially Iroha ordering.

18. (Previously Presented) The text-entry system of claim 1 further comprising a word-based predictive mechanism.

19. (Previously Presented) The text-entry system of claim 18 further comprising a word-completion mechanism.

20. (Withdrawn) The text-entry system of claim 2 further characterized in that said tone mark appears in said order after any of said Latin symbols in said order.

A handwritten signature consisting of several fluid, cursive strokes. It includes a large loop on the left, a vertical line with a crossbar in the center, and a series of loops and lines extending to the right.